

Difference Between Hardware and Software

A computer system is divided into two categories: Hardware and Software. Hardware refers to the physical and visible components of the system such as a monitor, CPU, keyboard and mouse.

Software, on the other hand, refers to a set of instructions which enable the hardware to perform a specific set of tasks. The software must be installed in the hardware to function properly and similarly, the hardware must be present for the tasks to be performed. Both are interdependent, yet they are also different from each other.



Further differences between Hardware and Software will be discussed in great detail within the context of the IAS Exam

Differences between Hardware and Software

Hardware	Software
<p>Hardware is further divided into four main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Input Devices ● Output Devices ● Secondary Storage Devices ● Internal Components 	<p>Software is further divided into two main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application Software ● System Software
<p>Developed using electronic and other materials</p>	<p>Developed writing using instructions using a programming language</p>
<p>When damaged, it can be replaced with a new component</p>	<p>When damaged it can be installed once more using a backup copy</p>
<p>Hardware is physical in nature and hence one can touch and see hardware</p>	<p>The software cannot be physically touched but still can be used and seen</p>
<p>Hardware cannot be infected by Viruses</p>	<p>The software can be infected by Viruses</p>
<p>Hardware will physically wear out over time</p>	<p>A software does not wear out but it can be affected by bugs and glitches</p>
<p>An example of Hardware is hard drives, monitors, CPU, scanners, printers etc.</p>	<p>An example of software is Windows 10, Adobe Photoshop, Google Chrome etc.</p>